

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 8-13 and claims 22-27 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants' appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Zhou in the August 29, 2005 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants' thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-7 and 18-21 contain allowable subject matter.

II. Claim Rejection Under §102

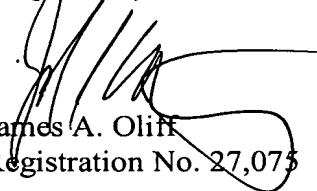
The Office Action rejects claims 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0172963 to Kelley et al. While Applicants do not necessarily agree with this rejection, claims 22-27 have been canceled herein. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 and 18-21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 16, 2005

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